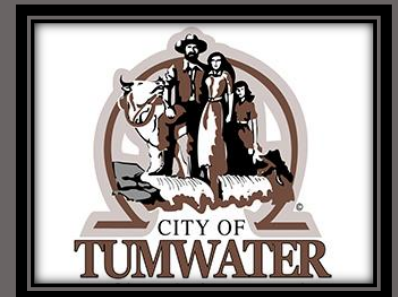


Tumwater City Plan 2035

Conservation Element Briefing

August 9, 2016
Planning Commission



What is the Conservation Element?

The draft Conservation Element of the Comprehensive Plan is intended to **identify, protect, and conserve critical environmental areas and valuable natural resources**

(RCW 36.70A.170)

Tumwater City Plan 2035
Conservation Element



What Topics Does It Cover?

It addresses the following topics:

Natural Resource Lands Conservation:

- Agricultural Lands
- Forest Lands
- Mineral Resource Lands

What Topics Does It Cover?

As well as:

Critical Areas Protection:

- Wetland Areas
- Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas
- Frequently Flooded Areas
- Geologically Hazardous Areas
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas

What has been Updated?

- State update requirements throughout the Element
- Applicable County-Wide Planning Policies in Chapter 1
- Added applicable goals from Sustainable Thurston to Chapter 1:
 - Priority Goals
 - Leadership & Participation Goals
 - Environment Goals to Chapter Goals

Agricultural Lands

- Lands that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products [RCW 36.70A.170(1)(a)]
- No parcels in the identified in the City meet this definition

Agricultural Lands

- Substantial update in 2011 addressed:
 - Sustainable Agriculture: Urban Farms, Community Gardens, Individual Home Gardens, and Farmers Market
- 2016 Update added reference to TMC 16.12 – Right-to-Farm protections

Forest Lands

- Lands that have long-term significance for the commercial production of timber [RCW 36.70A.170(1)(b)]
- No parcels in the identified in the City meet this definition
- Existing forested parcels would remain until converted to urbanized land uses

Mineral Resource Lands

- Lands that have long-term significance for the extraction of minerals [RCW 36.70A.170(1)(c)]
- Updating list of Mineral Resource Designation lands
- Removed 'Right to Mine' language originally in Chapter 4, Mineral Resource Lands, that is now found in TMC 16.16 – Right to Mine

Wetland Areas

- Updated the Category I – IV Wetland descriptions to match current state law
- Removed wetland mitigation replacement ratios that are now found in TMC 16.28 – Wetland Protection Standards
- Next step is to update regulations in TMC 16.28

Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas

- Updated chapter with assistance of Public Works staff to reflect current water system plans and water quality protection standards
- Removed Critical Aquifer Recharge Protection Zone District language now found in TMC 16.24 – Aquifer Recharge Standards and TMC 16.26 – Wellhead Protection Standards
- Next step is to update regulations in TMC 16.24 and TMC 16.26

Frequently Flooded Areas

- Updated chapter to address recently adopted ESA version of the FEMA Floodplain Model Ordinance instituting best practices
- Updated definitions of ‘floodway’ and ‘base flood’
- Next step is to update TMC 18.38 FP Floodplain Overlay to reflect current requirements

Geologically Hazardous Areas

- Reviewed and updated chapter as needed
- Removed Geologically Hazardous Areas
Development Requirements now found in TMC
16.20 – Geologically Hazardous Areas
- Next step is to update regulations in TMC 16.20

Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas

- Removed Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection requirements now found in TMC 16.32 – Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection
- Next step is to update regulations in TMC 16.32

New Goals and Policies Chapter

- Added Goals, Policies, and Actions as new Chapter 10 – Conservation Goals, Policies, and Actions

New Goal – Role of Natural Features

- Goal C-1: Recognize the significant role played by natural features and systems in determining the overall environmental quality and livability of Tumwater.
- Policies 1.1 – 1.5 support Goal C-1

New Goal – Protecting Critical Areas

- Goal C-2: Designate and protect critical areas including wetlands, critical aquifer recharge areas, frequently flooded areas, geologically hazardous areas, and fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas in accordance with the Growth Management Act to protect the functions and values of these areas as well as to protect against threats to health, safety, and property.
- Policies 2.1 – 2.21 support Goal C-2

New Goal – Protect Natural Resources

- Goal C-3: In accordance with the Growth Management Act, designate and protect natural resource lands including agricultural, forest, and mineral lands that have long-term significance to conserve and protect these areas.
- Policies 3.1 – 3.8 support Goal C-3

Suggested Feedback Needed

- Are there any key facts that need to be added or updated?
- Is it representative of the other Elements you've reviewed?
- Are the proposed goals and policies reflective of the community?
- What action items could be added to implement the goals and policies?
- Does it need more graphics? If so, where?

What's Next?

August 23 – Work Session on Land Use Element
Work Session on Conservation Element

September 13 – Briefing on Capital Facilities Plan
Work Session on Parks and Recreation
Element

September 27 – Work Session on Capital Facilities Plan
Work Session on Utilities Element

Please turn in comments on the **Conservation Element** by
August 19 at 5 pm

Thank you!

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